Devotions for public and private use at the way of the Cross

Devotions

FOR

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE USE.

AT THE

WAY OF THE CROSS.

INDUSTRIA PROBITATE



DEVOTIONS

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AT THE

WAY OF THE CROSS.

BY

SISTER M. F. CLARE,

Author of "Jesus and Jerusalem;" "The Book of the Blessed Ones," &c. &c.

London:

R. WASHBOURNE, 18 PATERNOSTER ROW.

1875.

Nihil Obstat,

Joseph A. Can. Bans.

Imprimatur,

✠ HENRICUS EDUARDUS,

Archiep. Westmonast.

Die 8 *Nov.* 1874.

THE WAY OF THE CROSS.

EXPLANATION OF THE DEVOTION, AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

WHEN we have laid those whom we love in the silent grave, we do not forget them. The more dearly we have loved them, the more we reverence their memories, and do what we can to show our affection for them. We like to speak of what they did and said during the last hours of their mortal life, and we like to visit their tombs.

We know how the disciples loved Jesus, and how He was loved by His Blessed Mother Mary, and we know when He died that they must often have visited each place where He suffered, where He shed His most precious Blood. "There," they would say to each other, "our Jesus was condemned to death for our sins; there He fell down under the weight of the Cross; there the good Veronica met Him; there He was fastened to the Cross with those great dreadful nails;" and so they would mingle their sighs and their tears, and pray that they might live so free from sin in this world, as to be fit to live for ever and ever with their own dear Lord, in that blessed country where no pain can ever come, and where nothing sinful can ever enter.

And this is what we also must try to do. We cannot go to Jerusalem and visit all

the holy places, but we can make the Stations of the Cross in our own church, and even in our own houses. It is a most beautiful devotion; it is a most holy devotion; it is a devotion which cannot fail to bring great grace to our poor souls. But grace is just the one thing that we want most in this world. We can do without money; for we may be very poor, and yet go to heaven when we die, and be very rich there. We can do without fame or honour; for we may have great honour in God's kingdom; but we cannot do without grace. We must have grace to save our souls, grace to keep us from sin, grace to enable us to resist temptation, and to perform acts of virtue. And God is so good He will give us grace if we only ask it, and one of the very best ways of asking grace is to make the Way of the Cross. When our good God sees us sorrowing for

our sins, as we reflect on what Jesus suffered, He will pardon us. Many of the Saints have told us how much God loves us to think of the Passion of Jesus.

How wicked and ungrateful people are, who do not think of all that He suffered for us!

If we have not attended church regularly when the Stations are said, let us begin to do so now, and let us try to go to the church sometimes by ourselves, and say them there; or if we are ill and in trouble, or cannot go to the church, we can say them at home or in our sick beds. If we have a crucifix properly indulgenced, we can get the indulgence for saying them, but if we have not, let us say them all the same, and be sure that God will give us great grace in return if we are truly contrite for our sins.

We are told by St. Jerome, one of the

early Fathers of the Church, that Christians used to go in crowds to visit the holy places. This devotion always continued, and in the fourteenth century special charge of the sacred places was given to the Franciscan Fathers. This was very appropriate: for the great and dear St. Francis was the ardent lover of Jesus crucified, and the first Saint who had those wonderful marks of the wounds of Jesus on his hands, and feet, and side, which are called *Stigmata*.

How good God is, and how good His Church is to her children! We may gain all the great indulgences which were granted formerly to those who visited the sacred places in the Holy Land, by making the Stations.

There are no particular prayers prescribed, but we must try to meditate on the Passion of our Lord according to our

ability, when we are visiting the Stations, and we must go from one Station to the other, unless we are hindered by sickness. All who are sick, or at sea, or who are lawfully prevented from visiting the Stations in a church, can gain the indulgence if they have a blessed crucifix, by saying fourteen times "Our Father," and "Hail Mary;" and then five times "Our Father," "Hail Mary," and "Glory be to the Father," ending with one "Our Father," "Hail Mary," and "Glory" for the Pope. But if we have not a blessed crucifix we must still try to gain the grace and blessing which God will surely give us if we perform this devotion with these, or any other prayers.

THE WAY OF THE CROSS.

BEFORE we begin the Stations we should try to recollect ourselves; to excite ourselves to sorrow for our sins; to love of our suffering Jesus. Let us say the acts of Faith, Hope, Charity, and make contrition: of Faith that we may believe more firmly that Jesus suffered and died for us; of Hope that we may confidently expect the rewards He has promised to those who love Him; of Charity that we may increase in that great virtue, and of contrition that our conscience may be made pure and

clean before we commence this journey of love and sorrow.

Prayer.

Oh, my God, because Thou art the very Truth itself, I believe in Thee, and I believe all things which the Catholic Church teaches, because she is taught by Thee. Oh, my God, because Thou art all powerful, faithful, and merciful, I hope in Thee, and I believe that Thou hast prepared exceeding great rewards for those who love Thee. Oh, my God, because Thou art infinitely good I love Thee, and because I love Thee I am sorry that I have offended Thee, and I firmly resolve, with the assistance of Thy divine grace, never more to offend Thee for the time to come, and carefully to avoid all occasion of sin.

Preparatory Devotions.

(When the Stations are performed in public, the priest kneels before the altar with the acolyths to say the preparatory prayer. The same rule should be observed when saying the Stations in the church for private devotion.)

Prayer.

O Divine Jesus, Who hast suffered so bitterly for our salvation, we come before Thee to honour Thy adorable Passion, and to renew our sorrow for sin, and our love of Thee. Grant that we may so meditate upon these mysteries of love that we may be penetrated thereby with grief for our sins, while we resolve firmly never to offend Thee again.

We desire to gain all the indulgences which are attached to the practices of this

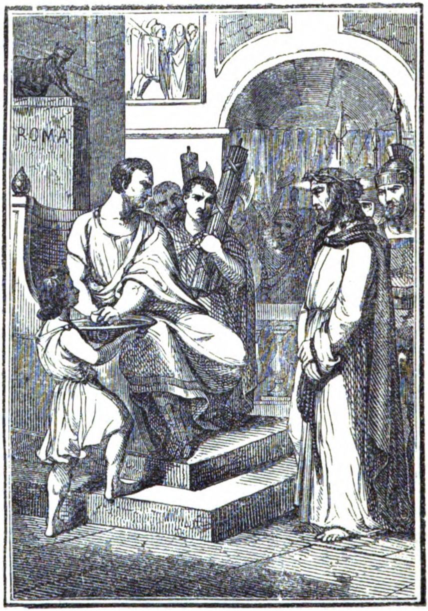
devotion, and we join in the intentions for which it is offered.

(It may be well to announce a particular intention from the Altar, such as for the suppression of intemperance, for the conversion of sinners belonging to the parish; each person can also form his or her private intention.)

In moving to the first Station the following versicle and response are said :—

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.



JESUS CONDEMNED TO DEATH.

First Station.

JESUS CONDEMNED TO DEATH.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

INTENTION.

FOR THE GRACE OF TRUE CONTRITION.

Let us reflect for a little while on the mystery of Jesus condemned to death; let us ask ourselves, Why is He condemned to death? It is for our sins—for my sins; Jesus is innocent, and He suffers; I am

guilty, do I not then desire to suffer? Jesus is God, most truly God, He is our Creator, and yet He dies for His creatures. Shall we then any longer refuse to give up our sins, and especially those sins by which we offend Him most? Oh no! from this moment we will change our whole lives. We will try to atone to our Jesus for the crime which Pilate committed in condemning Him to death, and we shall try still more to atone to Him for the crimes that we have committed whenever we have been so unhappy as to have offended our good Lord.

Prayer.

My Jesus, mercy! * With the help of Thy divine grace, I will never offend Thee more. I abhor and detest those

* There is a One Hundred Days' Indulgence for each recital of this aspiration.

sins which have been the cause of Thy death; help me by that death to live a new life for all time to come, and never again to offend Thee by word or act. The sentence of death was pronounced upon Thee that I might live. Oh be my life! and grant me grace to live henceforth for Thee alone. Grant that I may prove my contrition for my sins by forsaking them.

(Our Father—Hail Mary—and Glory.)

At the Cross, her Station keeping,
Stood the mournful Mother weeping,
Close to Jesus to the last;
Through her heart, His sorrow sharing,
All His bitter anguish bearing,
Now at length the sword had passed.



JESUS RECEIVES THE CROSS.

Second Station.

JESUS RECEIVES THE CROSS.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

INTENTION.

TO OBTAIN THE GRACE ALWAYS TO DO THE WILL OF GOD, HOWEVER OPPOSED TO OUR OWN WILL.

Jesus receives the Cross willingly. He desires to suffer because by His sufferings He procures eternal rest for us, and we

unhappily do not desire to suffer, and are often most unwilling to obey the holy Will of God when it is contrary to our own inclinations. Let us resolve firmly from this moment to bear our sufferings patiently, and what is sometimes more difficult, to obey God's commands, and the commands of the Church, faithfully, however opposed they may be to our sinful inclinations; above all not to let any temptation keep us away from the Sacraments, or from the duty of hearing Mass on all days of obligation.

Prayer.

My Jesus, mercy! With the help of Thy divine grace I will never offend Thee more. I am sorry that I have so often grieved Thy adorable heart, that I have not tried to help Thee to bear Thy Cross by bearing mine generously; but now, Lord, with

the help of Thy divine grace, I will begin. By Thy generosity in bearing the Cross to Calvary help me to bear my cross to the hour of my death. Give me grace to fulfil all my religious duties regularly and faithfully, so that I may be prepared for that eternal kingdom where those who bear the Cross here for love of Thee shall be rewarded by Thee with an unending crown of glory.

(Our Father—Hail Mary—and Glory.)

Oh, how sad and sore distressed
Was that Mother, highly blest,
  Of the sole-begotten One!
Christ above in torments hangs;
She beneath beholds the pangs
  Of her dying glorious Son.



JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME BENEATH THE CROSS.

Third Station.

JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME BENEATH THE CROSS.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

INTENTION.

GRACE TO RISE QUICKLY AFTER WE FALL.

Let us contemplate Jesus falling under the weight of the Cross. He is indeed crushed by that cruel scourging, by the long night of anguish, by the agony of the

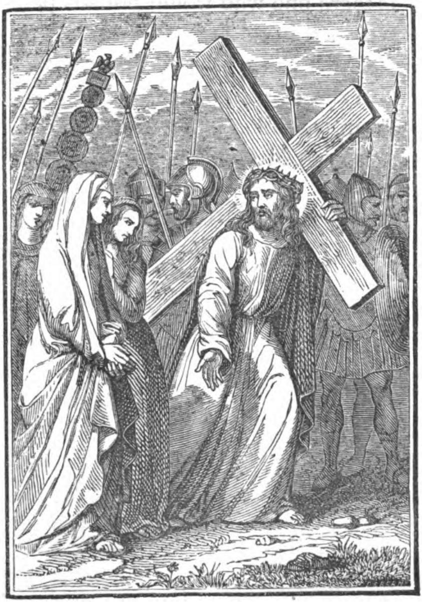
bloody sweat in Gethsemani, and why? Because the burden of our sins is upon Him, because he bears the heavy weight of our iniquity. Oh how can we be so cruel as to add to sorrows which are already so great? Oh how can we be so ungrateful to One Who loves us so tenderly? See! see! as He falls to the ground how He offers this anguish for you and for me.

Prayer.

My Jesus, mercy! Never, never again shall we grieve Thee by mortal sin. Never again shall we add to this bitter pain the pain which our ingratitude would give. We will think no more about the opinion of the world, but we will think a great deal about the sorrows of our God. We promise Thee now, most sweet Jesus, no longer to add to the burden of the Cross.

(Our Father—Hail Mary—and Glory.)

Is there one who would not weep,
Whelm'd in miseries so deep
  Christ's dear Mother to behold?
Can the human heart refrain
From partaking in her pain—
  In that Mother's pain untold?



JESUS MEETS HIS BLESSED MOTHER.

Fourth Station.

JESUS MEETS HIS BLESSED MOTHER.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

INTENTION.

TO OBTAIN A MORE ARDENT AND PRACTICAL LOVE OF OUR BLESSED LADY.

Let us contemplate this meeting of Jesus and Mary. Well indeed may the Mother of God need the strength of God

to bear her anguish. Well may she cry out, Was there ever sorrow like my sorrow? Here is her beautiful Jesus, her only Son, but oh, how disfigured! but oh, how changed! The beauty of Eternal Beauty is all externally defiled because of the sins of men. It is men who have done this cruel deed—and yet our sweet Mother Mary desires to help in their salvation. Let us learn from her a lesson of infinite charity, a lesson of infinite tenderness; let us never again refuse to pardon those who have injured us; and let our pardon be like the pardon of Mary—a perfect pardon, a generous pardon—a pardon that forgives not merely with the lips, but with the heart.

Prayer.

My Jesus, mercy! Sweet heart of Mary, be my salvation. Oh, Mary, obtain for

me from thy Divine Son a most ardent love of His Passion, and the grace so to profit by the contemplation of these mysteries that I may henceforth practise this lesson of charity of which you give the example. I pardon all who have injured me from my heart. I purpose, with the help of divine grace, never more to entertain any feeling of anger or revenge.

(Our Father—Hail Mary—and Glory.)

Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,
She beheld her tender Child,
All with bloody scourges rent :
For the sins of His own nation
Saw Him hang in desolation,
Till His spirit forth He sent.



SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS TO CARRY THE CROSS

Fifth Station.

SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS TO CARRY THE CROSS.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

INTENTION.

FOR GRACE TO ASSIST OTHERS ON THE WAY TO HEAVEN.

We may well envy him who was so happy as to assist Jesus in bearing His Cross. How different is the judgment

of the world and the judgment of God. The world despised the poor who followed Jesus; it despised the man who helped to bear the Cross. How little then should we concern ourselves with the opinions of the world; how little should we care what is said or thought of us if only we are walking with our Jesus on the King's royal way of the holy Cross, if we only, like the good Simon, are trying to help the poor and afflicted ones of Jesus to bear their sufferings. We cannot, indeed, help Jesus as Simon helped Him, but we can help Him by helping others. Let us begin now to do all we can to assist those who are suffering.

Prayer.

My Jesus, mercy! O my Jesus, would that I could have assisted to bear Thy Cross up the steep hill of Calvary. But

as that privilege is not granted to me, help me to try and bear my own cross patiently, and grant me the grace of a great tenderness towards all who are in affliction, so that I may be ready always to sacrifice myself for the good of my neighbour.

(Our Father—Hail Mary—and Glory.)

O thou Mother! fount of love!
Touch my spirit from above;
  Make my heart with thine accord;
Make me feel as thou hast felt;
Make my soul to grow and melt
  With the love of Christ my Lord.



JESUS MEETS VERONICA.

Sixth Station.

JESUS MEETS VERONICA.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

INTENTION.

THAT WE MAY NEVER BE GUILTY OF SIN OR IMPERFECTION THROUGH HUMAN RESPECT.

Let us consider the great courage and generosity of Veronica. She is not afraid of the angry crowd. She is determined

to give what little help and comfort she can to our dear Lord, no matter how much she may be scoffed at or despised. Here is a great lesson for us. Are we ever ashamed of our religion when the ungodly mock it? Do we ever neglect the duty of going to Mass, and to the Sacraments, for some frivolous reason? Let us learn at this Station the blessed lesson of thinking only of our crucified Jesus, and of seeking His approbation only.

Prayer.

My Jesus, mercy! With the help of Thy divine grace, I promise never again to offend Thee. By the sorrow which Thou didst endure in the most sorrowful Way of the Cross, give me such efficacious grace, that from henceforth I may do what will please Thee only, my crucified God;

and that I may never be led astray by the temptation or scoffs of the sinful and ungodly. May Thy sufferings be so imprinted on my heart that I may have no other love but Thee, and no other desire but to live for Thee alone, and to console Thee in Thy passion.

(Our Father—Hail Mary—and Glory.)

Holy Mother ! pierce me through,
In my heart each wound renew,
Of my Saviour crucified :
Let me share with thee His pain,
Who for all my sins was slain,
Who for me in torments died.



JESUS FALLS A SECOND TIME BENEATH THE CROSS.

Seventh Station.

JESUS FALLS A SECOND TIME BENEATH THE CROSS.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

INTENTION.

FOR GRACE TO ASSIST THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN TO RISE AGAIN.

Jesus falls a second time beneath the weight of the Cross. How terrible are His sufferings. From head to foot H

is full of great open wounds, which the cruel men have made who lashed Him with the scourge. All the long night He has been in torment, mocked, and defiled. In the Garden of Gethsemani His grief was so great that the blood poured down from His Body. And all this for our sins! Let us learn at this Station to be very sorry for our sins, because it caused our Jesus such cruel suffering, and let us learn here also the great duty of doing all we can to assist those who have fallen to rise again. We can do this by our prayers, by our good advice, and, above all, by our good example.

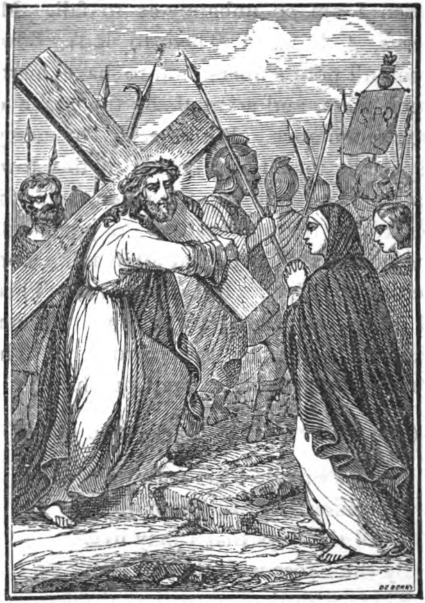
Prayer.

My Jesus, mercy! My Jesus, Thou didst fall a second time beneath the Cross. I offer to the Eternal Father all the anguish Thou didst suffer at this Station, and I pray for grace to rise quickly

when I am so unhappy as to fall. My Jesus, I beseech Thee to look down upon all poor sinners, and to have mercy upon them, and grant them the grace of true repentance. We beseech Thy mercy, especially for all who belong to this town and parish; raise up the fallen, help the weak, pity the outcast, and so pour forth the fire of Thy love, that all may be converted to Thee. Recall, we pray Thee, O Jesus, all who wander from the one true fold, and by the sorrows of Thy Passion unite them to the Church.

(Our Father—Hail Mary—and Glory.)

Let me mingle tears with thee,
Mourning Him who mourned for me,
All the days that I may live.
By the Cross with thee to stay,
There with thee to weep and pray,
Is all I ask of thee to give.



JESUS COMPASSIONATES THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM.

Eighth Station.

JESUS COMPASSIONATES THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

INTENTION.

TO OBTAIN THE GRACE OF GREAT TENDERNESS TOWARDS THOSE WHO ARE IN SPIRITUAL AFFLICTION.

Let us consider the great tenderness of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. See, amidst all

His sufferings, how He thinks of others. He can hardly walk upright, so great are His bodily pains, so great is His weakness, and yet He thinks of these poor women; He consoles them most affectionately, and He is more anxious about their griefs than about His own. Let us not go from this Station until we learn the great lesson of Christian charity.

Prayer.

My Jesus, mercy! I desire to learn from Thy example the great lesson of charity to all who are in affliction. Oh, my Jesus, Thou dost win souls to Thee by Thy sorrow and Thy love, grant me grace to win souls for Thee by the exercise of charity and patience. Help, I beseech Thee, all those who are in affliction, comfort the sorrowful, console the

suffering, and give to each such grace to profit by suffering here, that we may rejoice with Thee eternally in the world to come.

(Our Father—Hail Mary—and Glory.)

Virgin of all virgins best,
Listen to my fond request,
  Let me share thy grief divine;
Let me to my latest breath,
In my body bear the death
  Of that dying Son of thine.



JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME BENEATH THE CROSS.

Ninth Station.

JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME BENEATH THE CROSS.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

INTENTION.

TO OBTAIN GRACE FOR THE YOUNG TO PERSEVERE IN VIRTUE.

Jesus falls the third time beneath the Cross. Jesus is God, yet He is also man, and suffers as man. We see Him tempted

in the wilderness, but He could not fall into sin. But He can, and does partake of the weakness and bodily infirmity of our nature, and He falls beneath the Cross. Let us try to console Him in His anguish. Let us see what we can do to comfort the sorrows of our God.

When we desire to assist those who are suffering, we try to find out what has caused their pain, and then, if possible, to remove the cause. It is sin which has caused Jesus to suffer; we must then do all we can to prevent sin in others, as well as in ourselves.

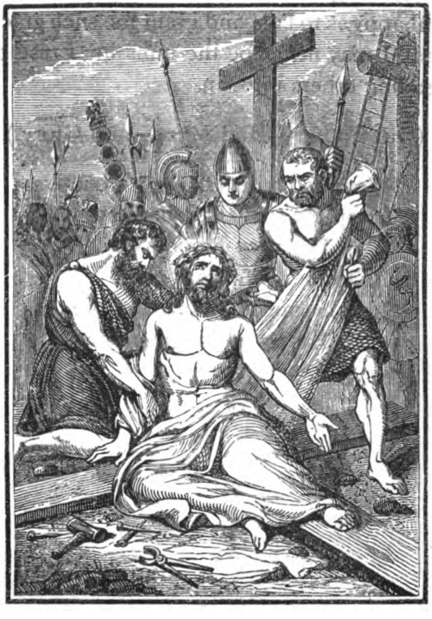
Prayer.

My Jesus, mercy! Thrice hast Thou fallen beneath the cruel weight of the Cross; may I console Thee by my tears and my patience. Oh, my Jesus, help me

to rise again whenever I have been so unhappy as to fall; and grant me such grace that I may never be the unhappy cause of leading others into sin.

(Our Father—Hail Mary—and Glory.)

Wounded with His very wound,
Steep my soul till it hath swooned
  In His very Blood away.
Be to me, O Virgin, nigh,
Lest in flames I burn and die
  In His awful judgment-day.



JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS.

Tenth Station.

JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

INTENTION.

TO OBTAIN THE GRACE TO OVERCOME ALL SINS OF PRIDE AND OF THE FLESH.

Let us contemplate our Jesus stripped rudely of His garments, and left naked and bleeding before a cruel multitude.

Oh, my God! is not this sorrow and shame enough to touch the hardest heart? Oh, my God! can I ever again indulge my sinful passions, or give way to my sinful pride? Surely when my Jesus bears all this for me, I will bear at least some little suffering for Him.

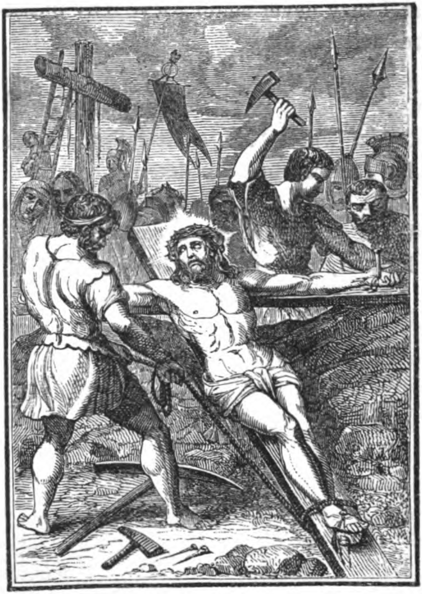
Prayer.

My Jesus, mercy! Teach me by the sorrows of this most sorrowful Station how to conquer my pride, and self-love. From this moment I resolve with Thy divine assistance to humble my pride, and to renounce my self-will. Oh, my Jesus, Thou knowest how weak I am. Thou knowest all my temptations, I implore of Thee, my suffering God, do not forsake me; I implore of Thee, my sweet Jesus, help me so effectually by the merits of Thy holy Passion,

that I may never again grieve Thy blessed wounded Heart.

(Our Father—Hail Mary—and Glory.)

Christ, when Thou shalt call me hence,
Be Thy Mother, my defence,
  Be Thy Cross, my victory.
While my body here decays,
May my soul Thy goodness praise,
  Safe in Paradise with Thee.



JESUS NAILED TO THE CROSS.

Eleventh Station.

JESUS NAILED TO THE CROSS.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

INTENTION.

FOR THE GRACE OF MORTIFICATION, AND A SPIRIT OF PENANCE.

Yet another cruel suffering is now inflicted on the sweet Lamb of God. He is nailed to the Cross. The cruel executioners come and drive the nails into His

blessed Hands and Feet with weighty blows. The sinews are broken, the blood gushes out. For you, for me, these wounds are made. What! shall we ever open them again? Oh, no! it shall be our blessed part to try and bring the ointment of our love and of our sorrow, and if we can, at least, to console our suffering Lord. We must learn to live crucified lives; the lives of those who deny themselves even in things lawful, and certainly in those things which the Church requires of us.

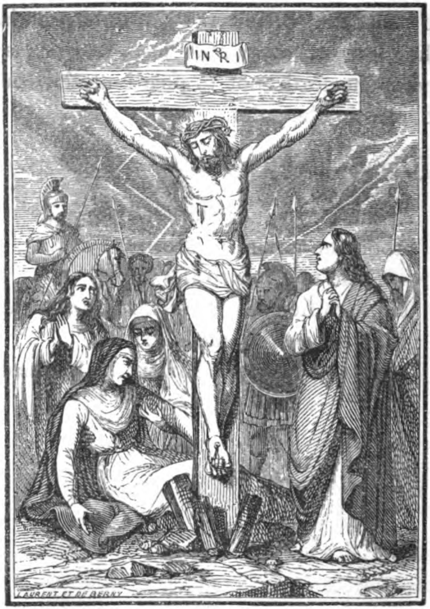
Prayer.

My Jesus, mercy! Oh, by those most blessed wounds, help me, my suffering Lord. Nail me to the Cross with Thyself, so that henceforth I may die to all that displeases Thee; give me such power and strength from Thy sorrows that I may have courage

to resist the corrupt and self-indulgent inclinations of my sinful flesh, that I may live henceforth not to please myself, but to please Thee alone.

(Our Father—Hail Mary—and Glory.)

At the Cross, her Station keeping,
Stood the mournful Mother weeping,
  Close to Jesus to the last;
Through her heart, His sorrow sharing,
All His bitter anguish bearing,
  Now at length the sword had passed.



JESUS DIES UPON THE CROSS.

Twelfth Station.

JESUS DIES UPON THE CROSS.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

INTENTION.

FOR THE GRACE OF A HAPPY DEATH.

At last the supreme moment has come. Jesus dies. He has lived for us; now He dies for us. And let us consider how He dies. He dies as He lived—in suffering. From His birth in the stable of Bethlehem,

until His most sorrowful death on the Cross he suffers, and we complain if we have even to endure a slight affliction. He dies for *us*. This is the most perfect love; this is the very perfection of charity; and in return He only asks us to die to sin. Let us make now a most firm resolution to obey the Divine voice, and never more to resist the whispers of our conscience.

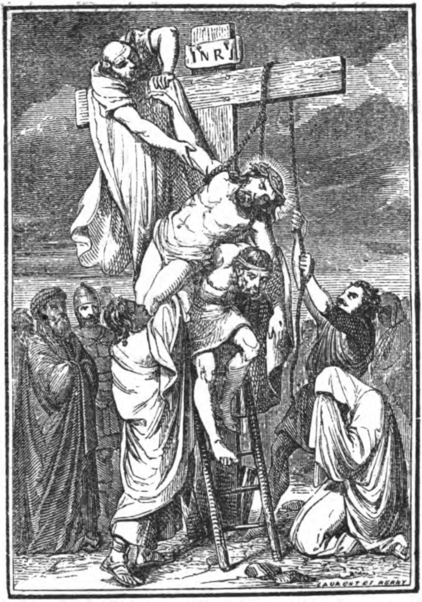
Prayer.

My Jesus, mercy! Oh, Eternal Father, I implore Thee through the death and Passion of Thy divine Son which we are now contemplating in the way of the Cross, that I may have grace to resist sin. I offer Thee His death that it may be my life; I offer His most precious Blood for grace to live a holy life, and to die a happy death. Grant, I beseech of Thee, that I may re-

ceive all the Sacraments of the Church in that last awful moment, and that I may have a holy and peaceful passage to Eternity.

(Our Father—Hail Mary—and Glory.)

Oh, how sad and sore distressed
Was that Mother, highly blest,
Of the sole-begotten One!
Christ above in torments hangs;
She beneath beholds the pangs
Of her dying glorious Son.



JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS, AND LAID IN MARY'S ARMS.

Thirteenth Station.

JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS AND LAID IN MARY'S ARMS.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

INTENTION.

TO OBTAIN THE GRACE THAT WE MAY ALWAYS CONFORM OUR WILLS TO THE HOLY WILL OF GOD.

Jesus is taken down from the Cross, and laid in the arms of Mary. He suffers no

more, but even in His death all is ordered in conformity to the Will of His Father. Let us learn from this sorrowful mystery the grace to conform our wills in all things to the holy Will of God. Let us contemplate Mary; let us imitate her perfect resignation, her sublime submission, her magnificent charity. Once she held her Jesus, a fair and beautiful infant, in her arms; now she holds Him a disfigured corpse. What has done all this evil? Sin. Jesus suffers, because we would not do the Will of God, because we preferred our own sinful will.

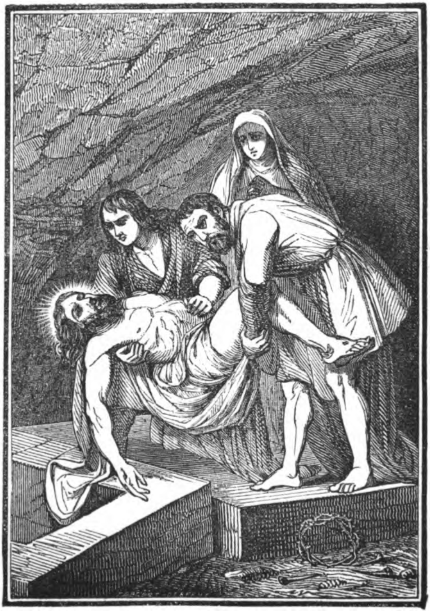
Prayer.

My Jesus, mercy! I resolve with the help of Thy divine grace never to offend Thee more. I renounce my own sinful will, and I resolve most firmly to obey Thy holy Will in all things. Oh, my sweet

Mother Mary, hear my petition; assist me by your intercession. I compassionate your sorrows as you clasp the lifeless body of your Son Jesus in your arms; obtain for me the grace never to grieve Him again, and always to sacrifice my own will when it is opposed to His divine commands.

(Our Father—Hail Mary—and Glory.)

Is there one who would not weep,
Whelm'd in miseries so deep
 Christ's dear Mother to behold?
Can the human heart refrain
From partaking in that pain—
 In that Mother's pain untold?



JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB.

Fourteenth Station.

JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

INTENTION.

FOR GRACE TO LIVE FOR GOD ALONE.

Jesus is laid in the silent tomb. His disciples all leave Him, for He no longer needs their care and vigilance. His earthly life is over and He goes to the souls in limbo to release them, and then to His Father in heaven, to rejoice in the triumphs He has won by His life of pain and sorrow. Let us meditate by His tomb; let us look

upon the blessed wounds which He has borne for our sins. Let us thank Him for all His love, and before we leave this sorrowful Way of the Cross let us make a most profound resolution never to offend Him again, and to live for God alone, whatever it may cost us to be faithful to our resolution.

[Here pause a few moments, if possible, and make a firm resolution to overcome whatever fault you are most subject to, and to make any sacrifice which God demands of you.]

Prayer.

My Jesus, mercy! O Eternal Father, I offer Thee all the suffering which my Jesus endured, and which I have now meditated upon in the most sorrowful Way of the Cross. Imprint, I beseech of Thee, His Passion so deeply in my heart that I may never again offend Him, that I may begin a new life of fervour and zeal in His

blessed service, and that I may so persevere through the sorrows of this life as to obtain the joys of eternal life in Thy presence for evermore. Amen.

(Our Father—Hail Mary—and Glory.)

Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,
She beheld her tender Child,
  All with bloody scourges rent:
For the sins of His own nation
Saw Him hang in desolation,
  Till His spirit forth He sent.

O God, who by the precious Blood of Thy only begotten Son didst sanctify the standard of the Cross, grant, we beseech Thee, that those whose joy is in the glory of the same holy Cross, may rejoice also everywhere in Thy protection; through the same Christ our Lord.

[Then say—Our Father—Hail Mary—and Glory for the intentions of the Holy Father.]


INRI

Devotions

FOR

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS,

FOR

THOSE WHO ARE IN ANY AFFLICTION OR GRIEVOUS SICKNESS.

THE world is full of sorrow and suffering, because it is full of sin. There are few persons, indeed, who go through life without some great trial, and few who do not suffer from ill health at some period of their earthly existence.

The Passion of Jesus should be both our strength and our consolation in all our

trials either of body or of mind. If we need strength to endure what tries us almost beyond endurance, let us find it here in the contemplation of the sufferings of our God, and we may be very sure that as we unite our sufferings with the sufferings of our Jesus, and as we compassionate His awful griefs, that He will look on us and help us in His great love and mercy.

[These devotions are made purposely as short as possible, and rather as suggestions which may be thought over or meditated upon, according as we have time or ability. In time of great trial, no matter what may be the cause, we may not be able to use long devotions, and in sickness it might not be advisable to do so. In long sickness persons might be able only to reflect on one Station at a time.]

Preparatory Prayer.

Oh, my suffering Jesus, I come to Thee to console Thee by my love; I come to Thee to offer Thee my affliction, and to unite it to Thy awful griefs, so that I may be able to bear it for Thy glory, and the good of my poor soul. Help me, oh my Jesus, for without the help of Thy divine grace I can do nothing. I offer this devotion to Thee for [here name your intention].



JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH.

First Station.

JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Jesus is condemned to death. He who has committed no sin, suffers for sin; but He also sanctifies all our sufferings, and He will sanctify this suffering of mine if I accept it in union with the perfect union of His Will to the Will of the eternal Father, in accepting the sentence of death.

Prayer.

My Jesus, mercy! It is Thy will I should endure this suffering. Thou hast passed the sentence upon me; but Thou art a God of infinite love and mercy; give me grace to bear it for Thy divine honour and glory, and for the good of my poor soul.

(Our Father—Hail Mary—and Glory.)

Stands that Mother most afflicted,
By the Cross where Jesus dies:
Who may know that Mother's dolours?
Tears are in her patient eyes.



JESUS LADEN WITH THE CROSS.

Second Station.

JESUS LADEN WITH THE CROSS.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Let us contemplate Jesus laden with the Cross. How willingly He takes it. Shall I not then accept, for love of Him, my cross, since He bears this Cross for love of me.

Prayer.

My Jesus, mercy! Help me to bear the Cross which Thou hast laid upon me. Give me grace to take it up generously, and when my poor heart sinks beneath the burden, then, oh, then, come to my assistance, and comfort me with Thy mercy.

(Our Father—Hail Mary—and Glory.)

Now her soul, His sorrow bearing,
　Bows with anguish 'neath the sword,
Which her gentle heart is piercing,
　Piercing with a woe unheard.



JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME BENEATH THE CROSS.

Third Station.

JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME BENEATH THE CROSS.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

How soon our sweet Jesus falls beneath the Cross. He is able to bear it, for He is the Lord and Maker of all things, but in His great love for us He makes Himself like us, and partakes of our infirmity, though He has no share in our sins.

Prayer.

My Jesus, mercy! I, too, fall beneath my cross. I do not bear it with love and courage. Oh, come to my assistance, and by the infinite merit of Thy agony when falling beneath the Cross on the way to Calvary, help me to bear, not only these crosses, but all the crosses and trials which I may meet with on my way to heaven.

(Our Father—Hail Mary—and Glory.)

Oh, how sad and how afflicted,
  Mother of the Only Son,
Art thou in this hour of darkness,
  When His earthly race is run!



JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER.

Fourth Station.

JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Oh, what an ocean of suffering we contemplate in this Station!—the sorrow of Jesus and the sorrow of Mary. Never was love so perfect as the love of this Mother and of this Son, and never was sorrow so great. Many of our afflictions are caused by others; sometimes by the

loss, or by the sufferings, of those we love; sometimes by the sins of those we love. Let us find consolation here.

Prayer.

My Jesus, mercy! O most sorrowful heart of my Jesus, help and pity me to-day. Mary, sweet Mother of Jesus, intercede for me. By thy grief and anguish in His meeting, obtain for me, Mother of my God, the grace I need to bear my afflictions with patience and resignation.

(Our Father—Hail Mary—and Glory.)

Who can hear thy griefs unmovèd,
Who can think upon thy pain,
Who can picture all thy sadness,
And from bitter tears refrain?



SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS TO CARRY HIS CROSS.

Fifth Station.

SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS TO CARRY HIS CROSS.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Let us consider in this Station the great grace of charity to others. We desire with all our hearts to help our sweet Jesus on this Way of the Cross; let us begin to do it by our charity to others—by forgetting ourselves, by thinking of

those around us, no matter how great our sorrows may be. So shall we console our dear Lord.

Prayer.

My Jesus, mercy! Would that I had been permitted to assist in bearing the Cross to Calvary; but this cannot be. With the help of Thy divine grace I will try to help those who are in sorrow or affliction, and even to hide my own griefs, if necessary, for the sake of those who are dear to Thee.

(Our Father—Hail Mary—and Glory.)

Now thou gazest on thy sweet One,
All with bloody scourges torn!
For our sins, and for His people,
Oh, what torture He hath borne!



JESUS MEETS VERONICA.

Sixth Station.

JESUS MEETS VERONICA.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Let us consider the great courage of this holy woman, and how willing she is to bear the reproach of Christ. Many of our trials are caused by the reproaches of the worldly, by the reproaches of those who do not care for the sorrows of our Jesus. Let us have courage, like Veronica, to suffer with Him and for Him.

Prayer.

My Jesus, mercy! Give me such grace, by the virtue of Thy Passion, that I may choose rather to suffer with Thee than to rejoice with the world; that I may be willing to bear whatever reproaches may be heaped upon me for obeying Thy law.

(Our Father—Hail Mary—and Glory.)

Now He hangs in desolation,
  Now He bows His Head and dies:
O my Mother, fount of loving,
  Keep me where thy true Love lies!

G



JESUS FALLS A SECOND TIME.

Seventh Station.

JESUS FALLS A SECOND TIME.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Jesus falls beneath the Cross a second time. He will, then, be full of compassion for me if in my sufferings I also fall, if at times they seem to be more than I can bear. Let us learn courage from this sorrowful Way of the Cross. All is not lost if we fall for a moment.

Prayer.

My Jesus, mercy! O my most sweet Jesus, come to my assistance; my heart is weary, my strength is failing me. At one moment I hope, at the next I am overcome, but I confide myself entirely to Thee. Oh, by the great anguish of Thy fall on the way to Calvary, raise me up and strengthen me, so that I may learn to love suffering because it brings me nearer to Thee.

(Our Father—Hail Mary—and Glory.)

Make me weep with thee, my Mother,
  Make me feel as thou hast felt,
Till my very heart and spirit
  With thy grief and anguish melt.



JESUS COMPASSIONATES THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM.

Eighth Station.

JESUS COMPASSIONATES THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Behold the infinite compassion of the Son of God. How tenderly He cares for others. He seems to forget His own grievous agony, when He can do anything for His children.

Prayer.

My Jesus, mercy! O most sweet Jesus, I sorrow for Thy sorrow, I grieve for Thy grief. Fill my heart so full of compassion for Thee, and of tenderness to others for love of Thee, that I may find no time for selfish thoughts of my own sufferings; that I may be ready to help and comfort others at any sacrifice of my own feelings or inclinations.

(Our Father—Hail Mary—and Glory.)

Pierce me, pierce me, holy Mother,
With His wounds, Who died for me;
Make me share the awful sorrow
Which those wounds have caused to thee.



JESUS FALLS A THIRD TIME.

Ninth Station.

JESUS FALLS A THIRD TIME.

℣. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

℟. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Let us contemplate Jesus falling once more beneath His Cross. Let us learn from His blessed example how to bear the manifold trials of life. There is generally some additional pang which comes to us unexpectedly, in almost every season of sorrow, some new form of suffering

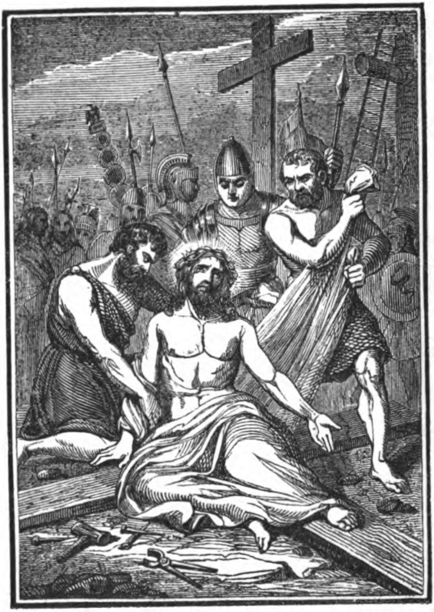
which makes us feel as if our burden were indeed greater than we could bear. Let us seek consolation in the sorrows of our God.

Prayer.

My Jesus, mercy! O my sweet Saviour, help me to bear my cross, and especially help me to bear without a murmur those additional trials which come to me from time to time, and which make my suffering so much more severe. By Thy agony, on this last and most sorrowful journey, console and strengthen me in my hour of anguish.

(Our Father—Hail Mary—and Glory.)

May I weep with thee, my Mother,
  Weep my Jesus crucified!
May I never leave Him, Mother,
  But beneath His Cross abide!



JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS.

Tenth Station.

JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Let us contemplate our Jesus stripped even of His garments. He is left nothing but suffering; can we, then, complain if all that we prize most is taken from us by our Heavenly Father, in His wisdom and love—if He permits us to be left desolate, to be deprived of what we value most?

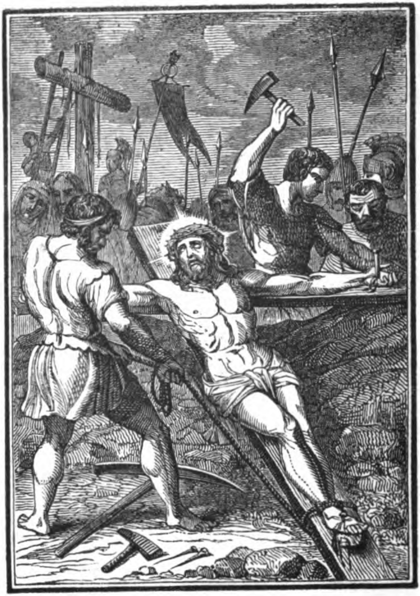
Prayer.

My Jesus, mercy! O sweet Jesus, stripped of Thy garments, and left desolate for love of me, help me to bear my desolation for love of Thee. Give me a great courage, a great charity, and a great confidence in Thy love. Do not let me be tempted above my strength, and give me grace to bear the loss of all things here, that I may receive all things in abundance hereafter.

(Our Father—Hail Mary—and Glory.)

This is all I ask thee, Lady,
 This do I desire alone—
Tears to weep of deep contrition,
 More and more to be thy own.

H



JESUS NAILED TO THE CROSS.

Eleventh Station.

Jesus nailed to the Cross.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Jesus bears the Cross for us and for our salvation and sanctification. He permits Himself to be nailed to it. It was not necessary that He should be thus condemned to this ignominious torture; but He would show us how to nail ourselves in spirit to the Cross, and how to endure

the trial when He sends us any affliction for which there is no alleviation.

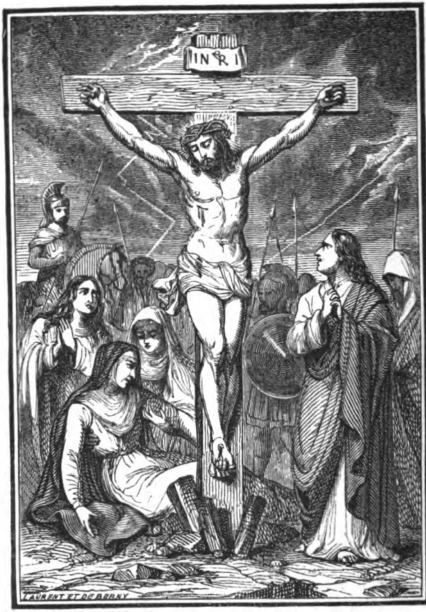
How happy we are if He permits us to imitate Him thus.

Prayer.

My Jesus, mercy! O sweet Jesus, nailed to the Cross for love of me, help me to cling to my cross for love of Thee. Give me grace not to move from it until Thou dost Thyself take it from me. Give me grace to bear it generously even to the end of my life, if such should be Thy holy will.

(Our Father—Hail Mary—and Glory.)

May I weep when I am dying,
Virgin of all virgins dearest,—
Weep His griefs as thou didst weep,
Who to Him of all wert nearest!



JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS.

Twelfth Station.

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

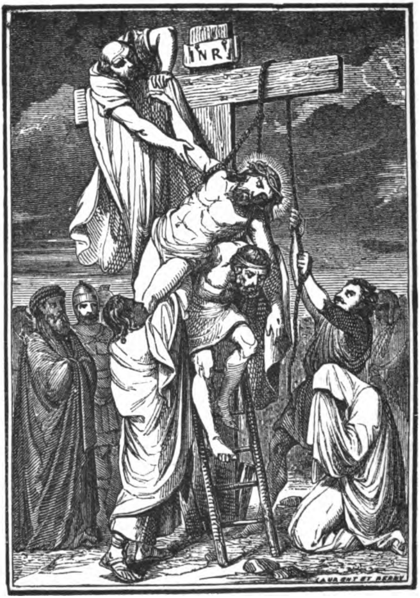
The life of Jesus is all suffering, from the manger at Bethlehem to the Cross at Calvary. And now His suffering ends only with His death—but death is the end; we cannot suffer for ever, unless we die impenitent; and by God's grace, if we bear our sufferings here patiently, they will one day end. Happy for us if they end by a blessed death.

Prayer.

My Jesus, mercy! Grant me grace to suffer so that I may die with Thee and for Thee—the death of the blessed ones. Grant that I may so live in conformity to Thy holy Will, that I may not fear Thee when Thou shalt pronounce upon me the last dread sentence. May my life be a life of dying to myself, so that my death may be the beginning of a life of joy.

(Our Father—Hail Mary—and Glory.)

Oh, be near me, near me, Mother,
In the day of endless doom;
Bring me to thy Christ, when judgment
Calls me from the silent tomb.



JESUS IS TAKEN FROM THE CROSS, AND LAID IN THE ARMS OF MARY.

Thirteenth Station.

JESUS IS TAKEN FROM THE CROSS, AND LAID IN THE ARMS OF MARY.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Mary is the first and the last to take Jesus in her arms. Let us contemplate her sorrows, and consider, if God permits His blessed Mother to suffer so cruelly, can we complain if we are deprived of those we love by death?

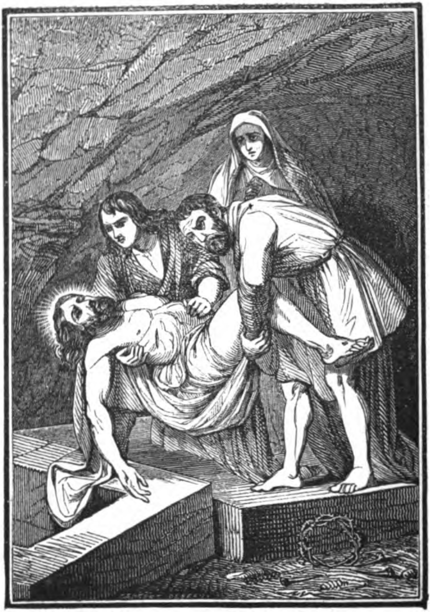
Let us learn to confide ourselves in sorrow to the care of Mary.

Prayer.

My Jesus, mercy! O most sweet Jesus, I beseech of Thee to give me a most ardent devotion to Thy blessed Mother, and a great confidence in her intercession. O Mother of Dolours, I confide myself and all my sorrows to your compassionate heart; and I beseech of you, by the memory of your sorrows, to obtain for me the help and strength which I so greatly need.

(Our Father—Hail Mary—and Glory.)

And when I am dying, Jesus,
May Thy Mother come for me,
May she guard me, may she keep me,
May she bring my soul to Thee!



JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB.

Fourteenth Station.

JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Let us contemplate Jesus laid in the tomb. He still bears all the marks of His Passion; but soon these marks will appear glorious and beautiful. Soon He will rise glorious and beautiful. So, too, will all our sorrows pass away, and will contribute to our eternal glory and happiness.

Prayer.

O Eternal Father, I offer Thee all the sorrows and Passion of Jesus, and I pray for grace to bear my trials meekly, so that they may be sanctified to my eternal good, and that I may glorify Thee more and more. My Jesus, mercy! Pardon my imperfections; help me by Thy grace. Mary, Mother of Dolours, intercede for me. My Jesus, I offer Thee all my sufferings; sanctify them for me by uniting them to Thine.

O God, Who by the precious Blood of Thy only begotten Son didst sanctify the standard of the Cross, grant, we beseech Thee, those whose joy is in the glory of the same holy Cross may rejoice also everywhere in Thy protection; through the same Christ our Lord.

(Then say Our Father—Hail Mary—and Glory, for the intentions of the Holy Father.)

She will be my palm of victory,
  She will be my sure defence;
And to Paradise she'll bring me,
  When my soul Thou callest hence.

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